

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Fig. 6 and Fig. 7. These sheets, which include Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, respectively, replace the original sheets for Fig. 6 and Fig. 7.

In Fig. 6, elements 90 and 93 have been provided with a corrected lead line, to point to the correct structure. Element 95 has been added.

In Fig. 7, element 63 has been changed to 62 to reflect the stub accurately, and the stub 62 has been more accurately depicted. Element 80 has been added. The “84” has been moved with a lead line added to show element 84. Element 95 has been added.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (2)
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)

REMARKS

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Moreover, the applicants have reviewed the Non-Final Office Action of June 2, 2006, and submit that this paper is responsive to all points raised therein.

I. Election

The applicants elect to prosecute the claims of a species that includes claims 9-22. This election is made with traverse.

Claims 23-32, drawn to a different species, having a separate receiving portion and flexible members, and a separate receiver and holding members, are cancelled. This cancellation is made without prejudice. In canceling these claims without prejudice, the applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file Divisional and/or Continuation patent applications.

This election is made with traverse, as it is respectfully submitted that examination would not require a divergent field of search. The recited features, regardless of the claimed separateness of the receiving portion/flexible members, in claim 23 and receiver/holding members of claim 27, would be found in the same search, as that for the features of independent claims 9, 12, 16 and 19. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that this restriction requirement be withdrawn, and claims 23-32 considered in response to this paper.

II. Status of the Claims

Claims 9-22 and 33-35 are pending in the instant Patent Application. Claims 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 22 have been amended. Claims 23-32 are cancelled. Claims 33-35 are newly added.

Claims 9, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 22 have been amended for consistency and clarity, and are directed to formalities only. Claim 9 was also amended to better define the flexible members with "force receiving portions" instead of platforms. Claim 19 was also amended, replacing "discontinuous" with "separate." Support for these amendments is found, for example, in Drawing Figures 4-7, with additional support for the amendments to claim 9, found, for example, in the specification at page 9, lines 21-26.

Claim 33 is based on claims 16 and 18. Additional support for this claim is found, for example, in drawing figures 4-7. Claims 34 and 35 include the subject matter of claims 17 and 18.

III. Drawing Objections

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). It is respectfully asserted that these objections are improper, for all claimed features are shown in the drawings.

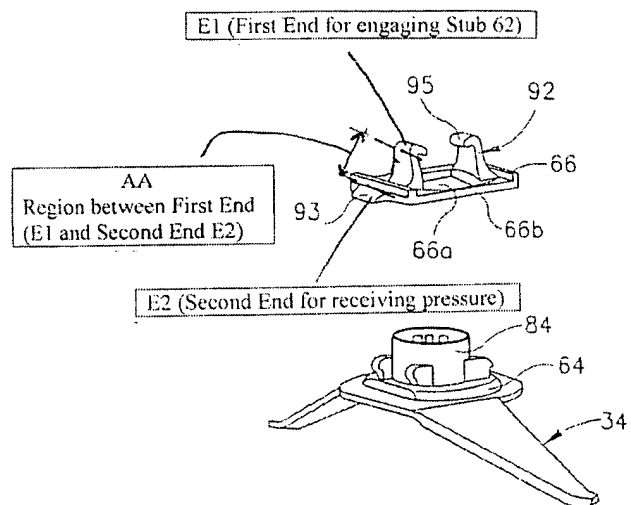
Please note that the previously amended “platforms” has been removed from claim 9 and replaced by “force receiving members.” It is respectfully asserted that in Figs. 5-7, element 93 is a “force receiving member”, and as such, is clearly shown in the drawings.

The “discontinuous with” recitation in claim 19 has been replaced with “separate from.” The requisite portion of the recitation, with reference to the drawings (element numbers added) reads, “said second portions 93 separate from and in communication with said first portions 95.” The “separation” in the claim language is based on elements 93 and 95 being at opposite ends of the flexible member 92, with the main body 94 located between elements 93 and 95.

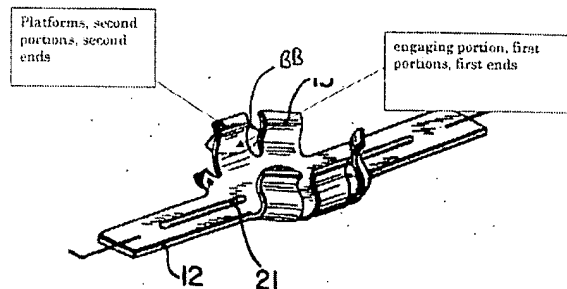
Based on the descriptions above, it is respectfully asserted that all claimed features are shown in the drawings, where this objection was improper. Alternately, this objection has now been cured.

IV. Rejections Under 35 USC 102(b)

Attention is directed to Drawing A and Drawing B to accompany the discussion immediately below.



DRAWING A
Claims 9, 12, 16 and 19



DRAWING B
Weber '413

Claims 9-22 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Weber (U.S. Patent No. 3,670,413) (Weber '413).

Independent claims 9 and 16 include recitations directed to a receiver formed by structures including a receiving portion and flexible members, with the flexible members including structures at one end for engaging the rotating member, and at the other or opposite end, for receiving pressure, for moving the engaging structure out of engagement with the rotating member. For example, as shown Drawing A (taken from the exploded view of Fig. 5 of the instant patent application) there is a receiving structure 84 with flexible members 92.

Independent claims 12 and 19 are similar to claims 9 and 16, in that they recite the two portions of the flexible members, with engaging structures at one end, and pressure receiving structures, at the other, or opposite, end. In claims 9, 12, 16 and 19, the structure of the flexible members that engages the rotating member, is different and separate from the structure that receives the pressure (for moving the rotational member engaging structure). For example, as shown in Drawing A, the flexible members 92 include structure 95 for engaging the rotating member at a first end (E1), this structure 95 at the first end (E1) being different and separate from the structure for receiving pressure 93 at the second end (E2), the structures 93, 95 separated from each other by the region AA.

For example, as a result of the structure recited in claims 9, 12, 16 and 19, the holding forces on the rotating member are greater than the rotational forces on the blade. This allows the rotating blade to remain securely engaged to the rotating member, for lawn mowing.

Weber '413 is directed to a device where a series of spring clips 13, receives and retains a hub 14. These spring clips 13 engage and hold the blade 12, and serve as a point for pressure, when moving the spring clips 13 outward, to disengage the blade from the hub, at the same location, and, are the same structure. This singular location on the spring clips 13, is indicated by the dotted line oval BB of Drawing B, below.

Moreover, the spring clips 13 forming a receiver for the hub 14, result in holding forces on the blade 12, that are much less than the rotational forces on the blade 12. This results in substantial "play" between the blade 12 and the hub 14, an arrangement not suitable for lawn mowing.

Weber '413 fails to show teach or suggest the recited structure of claims 9, 12, 16 and 19. Rather, Weber '413 is in contrast to the recited structure of claims 9, 12, 16 and 19, where different structures at different locations, engage the rotating member and receive pressure.

Based on the above, Weber '413 does not show the structure recited in claims 9, 12, 16, and 19. Accordingly, claims 9, 12, 16, and 19, are not anticipated by Weber '413 under 35 USC 102(b).

Moreover, since Weber '413 fails to teach or suggest structure that would have holding forces of the blade in the spring clips greater than rotational forces on the blade, it is respectfully asserted that Weber '413 can not render claims 9, 12, 16, and 19, obvious under 35 USC 103(a).

Since claims 9, 12, 16, and 19, are neither anticipated by Weber '413 under 35 USC 102(b), nor obvious in view of Weber '413 under 35 USC 103(a), claims 10 and 11, 13-15, 17, 18, and 20-22, respectively dependent thereon, are also allowable over this cited art for the same reasons. These claims further distinguish the invention from this cited art.

V. New Claims 33-35

Claims 33-35 are newly added. Independent claim 33 includes the limitations of claims 16 and 18. Accordingly, it is believed that this claim is neither anticipated nor obvious under 35

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USC 102(b) or 35 USC 103(a) in view of Weber '413, for the same reasons as claims 16. Claims 34 and 35 are dependent on claim 33, and are therefore allowable over the art of record, for the same reasons.

VI. Conclusion

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this paper, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Allowance of all pending claims, 9-22 and 33-36, is respectfully requested.

A petition and fees for a two month extension of time is attached. Applicant believes no other fees are currently due, however, if any fee is deemed necessary in connection with this Amendment and Response, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

LATHROP & GAGE, LC

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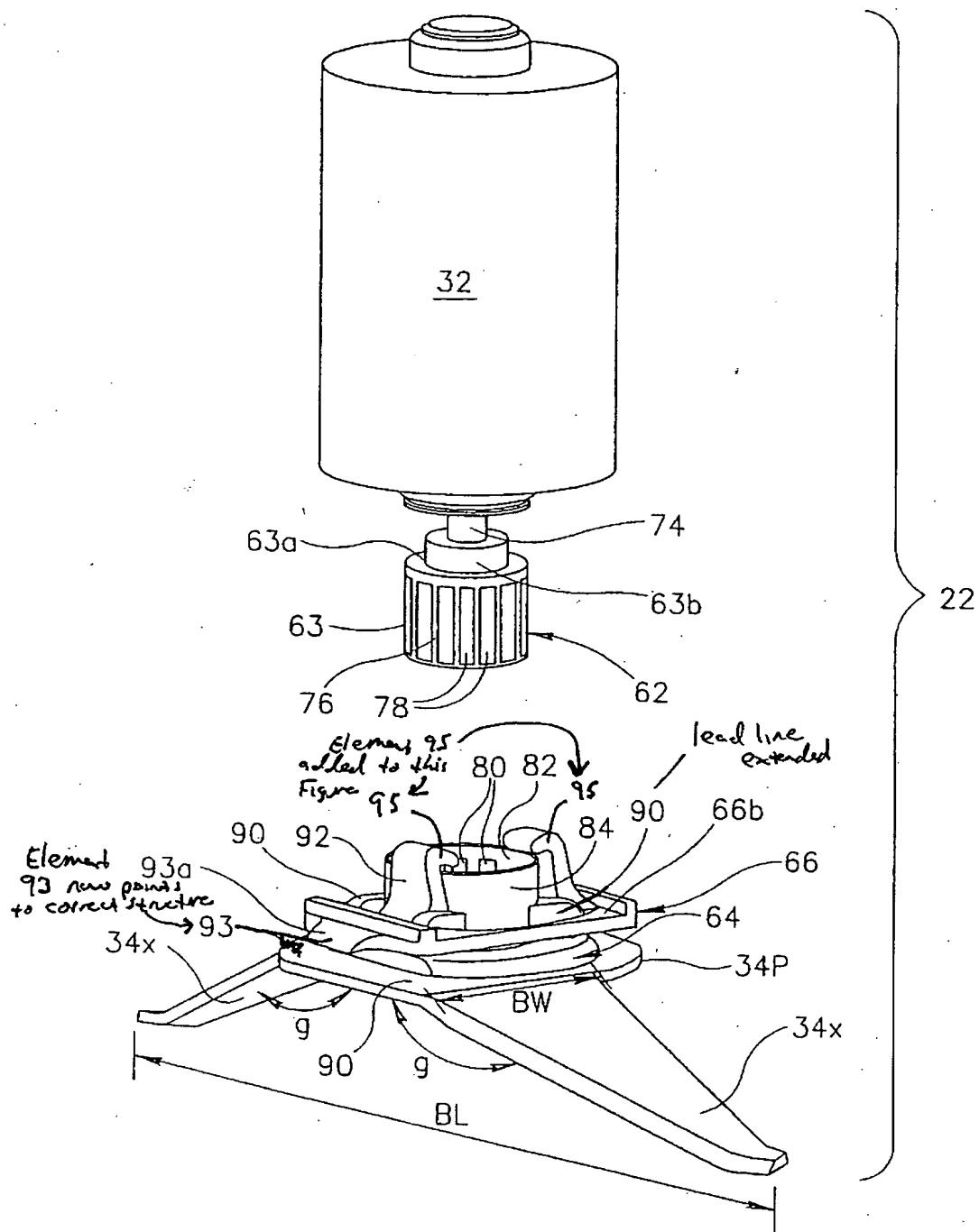


FIG.6

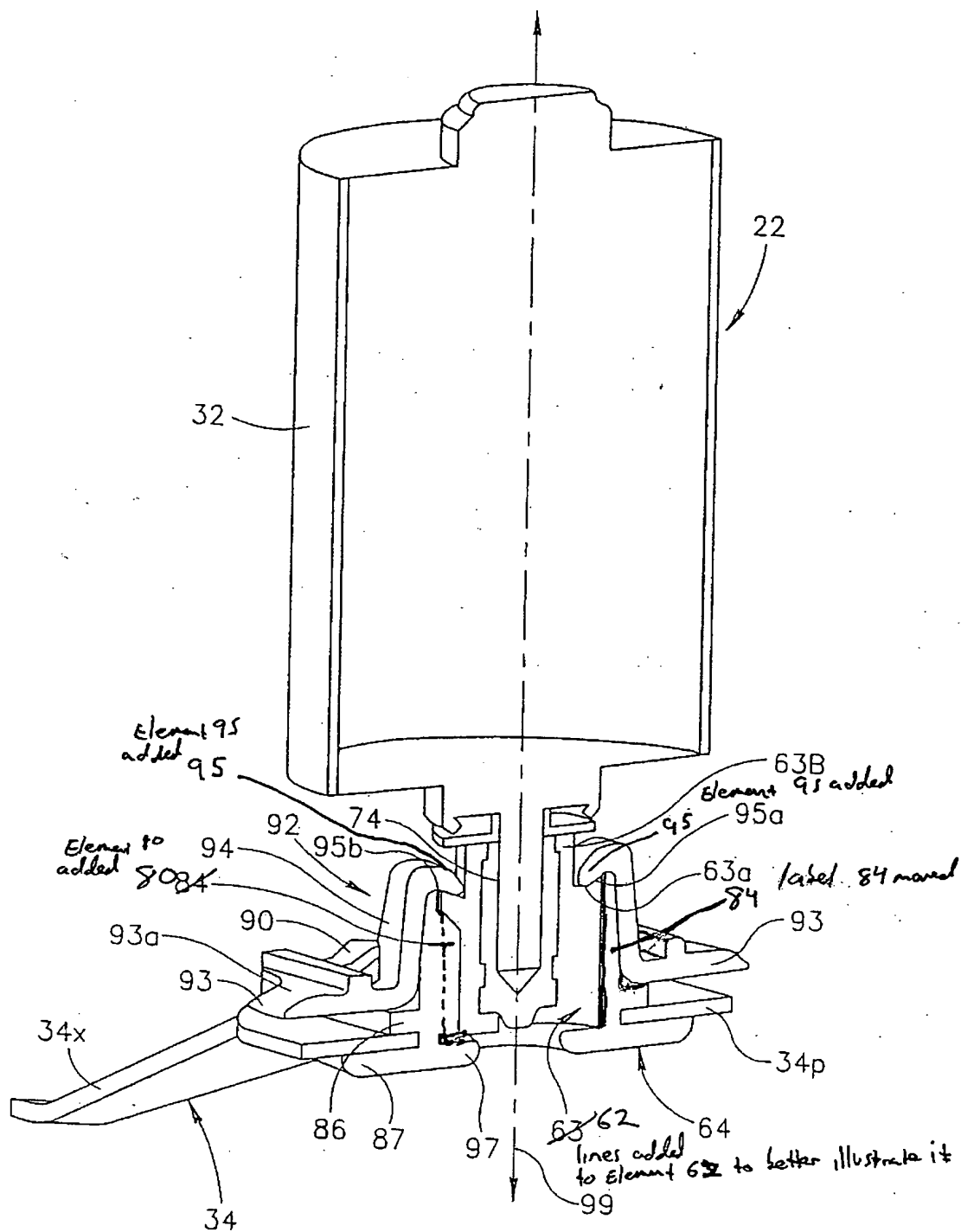


FIG.7